

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 3-5, 7, 9-12, 22 and 24 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A locking device comprising:

- at least one first segment being realized as ~~at least one~~an inner cap,

- at least one second segment being realized as ~~at least one~~an outer cap and

situated so as to be capable of being moved relative to the first segment, the outer cap having ~~at least one~~a transparent portion that is situated so that at least a portion of the inner cap is visible through it; and

- the at least one first segment and the at least one second segment being capable of assuming at least one first and at least one second position relative to one another such that a movement required to open or close the locking device immediately moves the position of the at least one first segment relative to the at least one second segment at least temporarily from the first position to the second position, wherein the inner cap has ~~at least one~~an indicator area that is permanently modified in at least one physically perceivable property, the permanent modification of the at least one physically perceivable property being affected by the movement to open or close the locking device.

2. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in Claim 1, wherein the physically perceivable property is chosen from a group including, in particular but not exclusively, color, transparency, reflectivity, and brightness.

3. (Currently Amended) The device as recited in claim 1, wherein the at least one first segment and the at least one second segment are ~~at least two~~ substantially rigid locking components that are capable of being moved relative to one another.

4. (Currently Amended) The device as recited in claim 3, wherein the ~~at least two~~ locking components are connected via ~~at least one~~ connecting device so as to be capable of being moved relative to one another.

5. (Currently Amended) The device as recited in claim 3, wherein the ~~at least two~~ locking components have shapes selected from a group that includes, in particular but not exclusively, cylindrical, spherical, conical, elliptical, annular, and cubical shapes.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The device as recited in claim 1, wherein the ~~at least one~~ inner cap is positioned at least partly inside the ~~at least one~~ outer cap, preferably substantially concentrically.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) The device as recited in claim 1, wherein the ~~at least one~~ inner cap has ~~at least one~~ a first locking engagement device including one of threadings, fitted rings, -flange rings and sealing rings, permitting a detachable engagement between the inner cap and ~~at least one~~ correspondingly matched second locking engagement device on an object being locked.

10. (Currently Amended) The device as recited in claim 1, wherein on ~~at least one of~~ the outer cap and the inner cap there is provided at least one guide device including one of a collar, a rail and a ring, in such a way that the ~~at least one~~ outer cap and the ~~at least one~~ inner cap can be moved substantially only along a preferred direction towards one another.

11. (Currently Amended) The device as recited in claim 3, wherein on at least one of the ~~at least two~~ locking components there is provided at least one snap device that, after the moving of at least one first segment into the second position relative to at least one second segment, fixes the two locking components substantially in relation

to one another, in particular through the action of a non-positive and/or positive connection or of a resistance that is to be overcome.

12. (Currently Amended) The device as recited in claim 3, wherein the ~~at least two~~ locking components are moved in such a way that relative movements between these two locking components are enabled when the movements are selected from a group including radial rotation, axial and lateral displacement, lateral deformation, and axial tilting with respect to the common geometrical longitudinal axis of the locking components.

13. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in claim 1, wherein the at least one first segment is provided at least partially with a colored layer that can be at least partially removed through mechanical action, and the at least one second segment has at least one shaving device that acts at least at a point in time during the movement into the second position and that acts at least partly mechanically on the colored layer.

14. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in claim 13, wherein at least one first segment has a different color underneath its colored layer.

15. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in claim 13, wherein said at least one first segment is provided underneath its colored layer with images, signs, logos, inscriptions, or combinations thereof.

16. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in claim 13, further including for the at least one shaving device, shapes are provided that are selected from a group including bar shapes, helical shapes, star shapes, spiral shapes, and/or annular shapes.

17. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in claim 1, wherein on said at least one first segment there is provided at least one turnable device that is capable of being turned in relation to a substantially outward-facing side of the locking device, said turnable device having at least one first side and at least one second side, the first and second sides differing from one another in at least one physically perceivable property.

18. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in claim 17, wherein the at least one turnable device is connected to said at least one first and said at least one second segment, and, at least at a point in time during the movement from the

first into the second position relative to one another, substantially the respective other side of the turnable device faces a substantially outward-facing side of the locking device.

19. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in claim 1, wherein said at least one second segment has at least one turning device that, at least at a point in time during the movement into the second position, acts at least partly mechanically on at least one turnable device in such a way that substantially the respective other side of the turnable device faces an substantially outward-facing side of the locking device.

20. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in claim 19, wherein shapes are provided for the turning devices that are selected from a group including bar shapes, star shapes, and/or annular shapes.

21. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in claim 17, wherein at least one side of at least one turnable device is provided with images, signs, logos, inscriptions, or combinations thereof.

22. (Currently Amended) The device as recited in claim 1, wherein said at least one first segment has ~~at least one~~ an indicator area made of a material that, given a predetermined action, changes in at least one of its physically perceivable properties, and said at least one second segment has ~~at least one~~ an acting device that acts at least partially in a predetermined manner on the indicator area at least at a point in time during the movement into the second position.

23. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in claim 22, wherein the action of the acting device is a mechanical action, thermal action, chemical action, electrostatic action, and/or some combination of these.

24. (Currently Amended) The device as recited in claim 1, wherein said at least one first segment has ~~at least one~~ a gas-sensitive indicator area made of a material that changes at least one of its physically perceivable properties under the influence of at least one reaction gas, preferably one contained in the atmosphere such as, in particular but not exclusively, oxygen.

25. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in claim 24, wherein in the first position, the gas-sensitive indicator area is limited in substantially gas-tight fashion against its surrounding environment, and has no contact with the reaction gas.

26. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in claim 25, wherein in the second position, the gas-tight limiting of the gas-sensitive indicator area against its surrounding environment is removed, and the indicator area comes at least partly into contact with a part of the reaction gas present in its surrounding environment.

27. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in claim 1, further including a safety device that prevents an unintentional moving of a segment into the second position, through, in particular but not exclusively, a non-positive and/or positive securing, a resistance that is to be overcome, or a predetermined breaking point.

28. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in claim 1, further including a fixing device is provided that brings about a rigidifying of said at least one first segment, or of said at least one segment in the second position, through, in particular but not exclusively, the action of a non-positive and/or positive connection, or of a resistance that is to be overcome.